
Blissymbolics
Communication
Foundation

✦ gathering
✦ dissemination
⊗ blissymbolics
× much, many

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AUGUST 1978

VOLUME III NUMBER 3



BULLETIN



AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL ASSOCIATE MEMBERS
RE: MEMBERSHIP 1978-79

FROM JUANNE HEMSOL, DIRECTOR

The B.C.I. Associate Membership drive for 1978-1979 has been launched!

We thank you for your interest and support over the past year and we urge you to renew your membership.

Blissymbolics continues to grow around the world. We hope to continue to keep you informed of the international development of symbols for non-speaking people of all ages.

This year a new emphasis for our membership drive is on symbol users and their families. Can you help us to reach symbol users, parents and parent groups?

We know you are aware that institutions such as ours are financially dependent upon donations, grants and subscriptions from the public and government. Your active membership provides a major contribution to our working budget as well as providing essential moral support.

The benefits of membership are described in the application pamphlet enclosed. You will receive both the NEWSLETTER and the BULLETIN during the coming year, one publication every two months. We hope this will eliminate the confusion of two subscriptions. This is the last BULLETIN of the 1977/78 membership year.

If you have become an Associate Member since January, 1978, please deduct \$3.00 from the current (1978-1979) membership fee of \$15.00. From July 1978 membership extends for the fiscal period which ends on June 30, 1979.

We have appreciated your support in the past and we look forward to your participation in the future.

FUTURE TRENDS - J. HEMSOL, S. McNAUGHTON

After much thought, it has been decided to change the name of our organization to 'Institute' rather than 'Foundation'. The change was officially sanctioned by our Board, the Ministry of Education and various other bodies in Ontario but at time of going to press, one last final approval is required before it is truly "official". "Institute" more accurately represents the educational, training work we are involved in rather than "Foundation" which is generally used for organizations that distribute money. However, the Blissymbolics Communication *Institute* is nearly here.

The need for our services is demonstrated daily by the number and variety of enquiries we receive. Offers of voluntary help from professionals, as well as non-professionals, is very encouraging to us and supports us in our efforts to maintain a core structure until such time as we can expand our services.

We are endeavouring to continue providing the major service functions of training and product distribution, but the creative developmental side of the work is under severe restraint. No research is underway at the present time although funding has been applied for, for a small project. Under 'Workshops' you will read of developments in new formats for training.

Some staff adjustments are being made to cope with the change of emphasis including the appointment of a Public Relations Co-ordinator and a Products Manager from within our present staff. The formation of two new volunteer committees is under consideration, one relating to the system of Blissymbolics and its application and one to the programme responsibilities of the B.C.I.

Although a shift in activities is necessitated, we are more determined than ever to provide a leadership and co-ordinating role in the application of Blissymbolics for non-speaking persons. To do that money is needed.

So the fall will see us again having to emphasize income generating activities and to expand those capabilities wherever possible.

During May and June 1978, discussions continued between our Chairman, George Wilson and Charles K. Bliss. Work on the symbol system was ongoing throughout, with Jinny Storr, Symbol Officer conferring with Mr. Bliss on many of the symbols to be included in Blissymbols To Use. Further work is hoped for in September when Mr. Bliss plans to return to Toronto. Thus we continue to do our utmost to facilitate the inclusion of Mr. Bliss's expertise in Blissymbols in our publications.

The small number of enquiries arising from George Wilson's letter in the last Bulletin regarding our relationship with Charles Bliss has been viewed as an expression of confidence in our organization.

Projects

Two projects which have been under development for some time were available for viewing by Blissymbol users and instructors during the July 10-14 Elementary Training Workshop in Toronto.

The prototype Blisscom was demonstrated by Sue Odell, and even without a complete Blissymbol overlay, was "better than anyone had imagined."

The Blissterm, still under development by the NORPAK Company, was shown to Blissymbol users for an evaluation of the manner in which the Blissymbols are portrayed on a monitor and T.V. screen. Further evaluation sessions are planned for August.

Beginning in the fall of 1978, several innovations are being implemented in the B.C.I. training. With the completion of the Blissymbol stamps and Handbook, it becomes possible to expand instructional sessions relating to personalized communication displays and use of special Blissymbols within the B.C.I. Elementary Training. It will be exciting to explore the new possibilities for Blissymbol usage which come with the larger number of symbols from which to select.

Several correspondence-related training formats will be available in the fall:

- . A Tutorial Correspondance Course is being developed by B.C.I. Further information will be available in the next Bulletin.
- . Dr. Eugene McDonald has evaluated a format of "pre-training correspondence lessons, two-day training, post-training correspondence lesson", and will be conducting further training programmes of this type in Philadelphia. At Madison, Wisconsin, Deberah Harris is presenting a three day training programme with follow-up correspondence assignments.

All Elementary training programmes will henceforth require successful completion of an examination prior to a certificate being issued.

Elementary Workshop Fees

Effective July 1, 1978, the Elementary workshop fee will increase from \$160 to \$180. This increase reflects the new product prices only and is not an increase in the daily rate. The participant

materials will now be worth \$40.00 as opposed to the previous \$22.00. The materials given will include:

Handbook	\$20.00
Blank grid & stamps	9.00
First Application Paper	1.00
Template	8.00
Worksheets	<u>2.00</u>
	\$40.00

Elementary Workshops in Toronto will continue to be five days in length and the fee will remain \$200.00. However, the Blissymbolics session will be four days and these four days must be attended 100% of the time to receive certification. The fifth day will focus on special areas and applications and will be optional. Those who wish to attend four days may do so for \$180.00. The attendance fee for the fifth day will be \$20.00. An announcement about the fifth day focus will be included in each application form. This new breakdown for Toronto will begin in September.

Presentors' Workshops

The response to the Presenter Pool has been extensive and as a result, we have enough people to fulfil our current demands for workshops and inservice presentations. In view of this, we will not be holding further group Presenter Training. Individual training will continue to be provided for people in areas where there is a need for a presenter. Unfortunately, the July 17-19 workshop was completely filled. To those who applied and were not accepted, we appreciate your support and will keep your requests on file for future reference.

LEVEL I PRESENTORS

Trish Bailey	Kersten Lormstrom
Loretta Biasutti	Marg McCuaig
Claudia Chant	Keila Waksvik
Doris Farenkopf	Anne Warrick
Jill Hammond	Kersten Wester
Joan Hurren	

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Advanced Workshop

Effective July 1, 1978, the Advanced Workshop will be classified as a Special Interest Workshop focusing on the application of the System at the Advanced Level or with the Proficient User. There may be fewer of these workshops held in the future as we plan to hold Special Interest Workshops on topics most requested.

Special Interest Workshops

With the varied backgrounds of presentors in the pool, it is now possible for us to give Special Interest Workshops in places other than Toronto. Examples of areas which could be focussed upon include application with the mentally retarded, the preschooler, application of the system at the advanced level, etc. Those who wish to host a Special Interest Workshop, should contact the B.C.I. as soon as possible. There is still time to schedule a few of these workshops for the fall and winter.

Workshop Fee Discount

Effective July 1, B.C.I. Associate members will receive a 10% discount on workshop fees. In order to receive the discount, the Associate Membership card must be produced the morning of registration. Please indicate on your application if you are an Associate Member and submit the required fee less 10%.

Internship Programme

During the spring internship programme, we welcomed Clare Goddard, a speech therapist at Murrayfield School in Edinburgh, Scotland and Bert Reeves, a school principal at Foxbury School in Dunedin, New Zealand. In an endeavour to learn as much as possible in six weeks, about Blissymbolics, our two visitors were extremely busy. They attended B.C.I. workshops, spent time with various B.C.I. staff members and visited Blissymbol programmes in Ontario, Quebec, Michigan and New York.

It was exciting for us to have these two people here for the spring internship and we wish them success with their own programmes.

Orientation, Inservice, Workshop

These words are often interchanged and should not be. Each has a different goal as part of the Blissymbolics training programme.

Orientation: During this session, a broad overview is presented to inform those with little or no previous knowledge about Blissymbolics. The talks can run from a minimum half hour to a maximum two hours. Anyone who has certification from a B.C.I. Elementary Workshop may conduct orientation talks.

In-service: During the sessions of an in-service presentation, a closer examination of Blissymbolics and its applications takes place. These talks are given from a minimum of one half day to a couple of days. These talks may be given prior to or as a follow-up to a workshop and must be conducted by a B.C.I. trained Presenter.

Workshop: These are in-depth sessions of several days length, focused on an intense study of Blissymbolics. They fall into two categories of Elementary and Special Interest. The former is a pre-requisite for the latter. Certification is granted for attendance at these sessions which must be conducted by a B.C.I. trained presenter.

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

With an extremely hectic spring and summer schedule, we are looking ahead to the fall and winter scheduling. Requests for hosting a workshop should be submitted early. We would like to accommodate as many requests as possible.

During the past few months workshops have been held in Toronto, California (Los Angeles & San Francisco), Georgia, Manitoba, New York, Ohio, Ontario, Pennsylvania, Quebec and Vermont.

The current schedule for 1978 is:

TORONTO

Special Interest

August 14-16 'Blissymbols and the Preschooler'

October 16-18 'Blissymbols and the Retarded'

The Special Interest Workshop 'Blissymbols and the Pre-schooler' promises to be a highly informative workshop.

Elementary

September 25-29

Ontario Crippled Children's Centre
350 Rumsey Road
Toronto, Ontario
M4G 1R8

September 27,28,30, October 1

Mary Hickson
Metro Toronto School Board
186 Beverly Street
Toronto, Ontario

For information on these workshops contact B.C.I.

WORKSHOPS - OTHER AREAS

October 17-20 Elementary

Marg McCuaig, Co-ordinator
Blissymbolics Resource Centre
Sunny Hill Hospital for Children
2755 East 21st Avenue
Vancouver, B.C. V5M 2W3
1-604-434-1311 local 2

October 23-25 Special Interest

Symbol System Update - 2 days
Mentally Retarded - 1 day

October 25-28 Elementary

Jane Green
Blissymbolics Association for
Newfoundland and Labrador
Box 18, Site 75
Logy Bay Road
St. John's, Newfoundland

November 2-5 Elementary

Caroline Price, contact person
To be held in Orlando, Florida.
For further information contact
B.C.I. Toronto.

Beginning of November

Special Interest Application System
at Advanced Level

Ina Kirstein
Oakland Schools
2100 Pontiac Lake Road
Pontiac, Michigan 48054
313-858-2121

November 9-11 Elementary

Blissymbols and Non-verbal Children
who experience Cognitive, Physical
Multiple Handicapped.

Deberah Harris, Area Co-ordinator
Training & Communication Research
Trace Centre, Rm. 314
1500 Highland Avenue
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

November 14-17 Elementary

Sally W. Ruggia
Special Education Consultant
3014 Old Seymour Road
Wichita Falls, Texas 76409

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Elementary Correspondence Course

Session I Correspondence Course
September 11 - December 30

Includes two day workshop
December 1 - 2

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NEW RESOURCE CENTRES

Three new Resource Centres have been sub-licensed, two in the United States and one in Quebec, with workshops scheduled for summer and fall. This brings Blissymbol training geographically close to a greater number of people. We welcome our new Resource Centre Directors and look forward to a close and productive relationship with them.

More information about these interesting new centres in the next bulletin!

CALIFORNIA

Dr. Mel Cohen, Director
Blissymbolics Resource Center
Dept. of Speech & Language Dev.
Communications Disorders Service
Medical Centre
Loma Linda University
Loma Linda, California 92350

Wisconsin

Deb Harris, Director
Northcentral Blissymbolics Resource
Centre, Room 329, Waismon Center
1500 Highland Avenue
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Quebec

Ms. Marie-Jose Belanger, Director
Blissymbolics Resource Centre
Cerebral Palsy Assoc. of Quebec Inc.,
4765 1ere Avenue
Charlesbourg, P.Q. G1H 2T3

RESOURCE CENTRE DISCONTINUED

Calgary

Dale Sutherland, Director of the Resource Centre at Alberta Children's Hospital has moved to Toronto leaving the area without qualified personnel to administer the Resource Centre. Therefore, Caroline Dunsmore, Director of the Speech and Hearing Department has had to terminate the activities of the Resource Centre as of June 1, 1978.

The Alberta Children's Hospital has generated a good deal of interest in Blissymbols. Carol Barchard in Edmonton has currently agreed to co-ordinate provincial activities. Her address is: Apt. 1603
10908 126th Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5M-0P3

Montreal

The Mackay Centre for Deaf & Crippled Children in Montreal has administered the Blissymbolic Resource Centre for the past two years. Keila Waksvik, Resource Centre Director, initiated French translations of materials for symbol users, and for instructor training, and has developed technical aids for use with Blissymbols. Workshops were conducted in English and in French and many visitors have been received to symbol classrooms.

Their efforts have stimulated the growth of Blissymbols in Quebec. Resource Centre responsibilities will now be assumed by the C.P. Association of Quebec in Quebec City.

Ottawa

The Ottawa Resource Centre feels Blissymbolics workshop training in the Ottawa area can best be served by Toronto. Anne Warrick and the staff of the Ottawa Crippled Children's Treatment Centre have contributed creatively and actively to the growth of Blissymbols for 4 years. The Board of the Ottawa Crippled Children's Treatment Centre has offered continued support and interest on an informal basis.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Resource Centre Director & Affiliate Advisory Committee Meeting

Resource Centre Directors met in Toronto July 26, 27, and 28 to advise on programme and product development. Ena Davies arrived from Wales. Seven directors from the United States and Canada reported on activities of the past year and projected needs for 1978/79. This is one of the most valuable services rendered by Resource Centres. The next Bulletin will carry details of this meeting.

Reader's Digest

Recent articles on Blissymbolics in the READER'S DIGEST - INTERNATIONAL EDITION - in Australia, Britain, Canada (in French & in English editions) and in South America - have generated increased interest. In the U.K. over 200 inquiries have been received to date and in Canada we have several hundred letters in Spanish from South America and Mexico asking for information.

U.K. Resource Centre

Two "follow-up days" have been held in Linköping for the participants from the May, 1977 Elementary Workshop held in Sweden. They are busy with translations of Blissymbols and are planning two Elementary Workshops in the fall.

Dr. Annagreta Malmstrom-Groth will be in Canada in September to attend the American Academy of Cerebral Palsy Conference in Toronto and to discuss Resource Centre activities.

Australia - Affiliate

Joan Hurren writes from Australia that she is busy responding to inquiries about Blissymbolics. Schools for the Mentally Handicapped are especially interested.

New Zealand - Affiliate

We have a new and very active Affiliate in the person of Bert Reeves, Principal, Foxbury School, Dunedin. Mr. Reeves came to Toronto for Internship Training in the spring. Since his return home he has been travelling throughout New Zealand on a government grant to introduce Blissymbols to government, professional and parent groups. He reports that interest and enthusiasm are growing rapidly.

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C.R.C.D. ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE

The Canadian Rehabilitation Council for the Disabled 16th Annual Meeting and Conference was held in Calgary, June 1-2. Theme for this year's meeting: Specialized Services in Physical Rehabilitation. Emphasis was on electronic, environmental and communication aids. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Paul Dollfus, Director General, Rehabilitation Centre, Mulhouse, France.

Current research and development in the field of electronic communication aids for use with Blissymbolics were outlined by:

Mr. Peter Nelson, P. Eng.
Assistant Research Officer
Medical Engineering Section
National Research Council of Canada

N.R.C. functions as a national science laboratory, a patron of Canadian scientific research and a vital link between the scientific interests of government, industry and universities.

As an Associate Member of C.R.C.D., B.C.I. was represented at these sessions by Margaret Schmieder, Liaison Officer.

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NEW PUBLICATIONS

Communication Outlook is a new publication of the International Action Group for Communication Enhancement. It focuses on technological aids to communication. It is a quarterly newsletter published jointly by the Artificial Language Laboratory, Computer Science Dept., Michigan State University, and the TRACE Research and Development Centre for the Severely Communicatively Handicapped, University of Wisconsin, Madison. For information, write to:

Communication Outlook
Artificial Language Laboratory
Computer Science Department
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824

Cost of \$10.00 per year (\$12.00 outside of North America) payable to Michigan State University.

Ottawa Conference June 1977

Proceedings of the Workshop on Communication Aids for the Handicapped held at the University of Ottawa, June 1977.

This conference was sponsored by the Medical Engineering Section of the National Research Council, Ottawa, in association with the Canadian Rehabilitation Council for the Disabled.

Included in the proceedings are presentations by Margrit Beesley, Barbara Kates, Nigel Ring, Gregg Vanderheiden, Ann Warrick and one dealing specifically with Blissymbolics and Technology by Shirley McNaughton.

It is available at a cost of \$12.00 from: Canadian Medical & Biological Engineering Society
Secretariat
c/o National Research Council
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0R8

TELEVISION TAPES & FILMS FOR LOAN

Channel 10 - Toronto

"Blissymbolics" is the title of a half hour television interview with Shirley McNaughton and Dorothy Price telecast in May, 1978, in Toronto. It will be seen again in the Toronto area soon.

This tape provides a good general explanation of symbols and their application and general explanation of symbols and their application and general needs for funding. It is introduced by a song written and performed by staff and Blissymbol students at the Villa Hospital, Thornhill, Ontario, entitled 'Mr. Symbol Man'.

A colour cassette tape of this show is available for loan from B.C.I. and from:

Ann Shannon Clark
Community Services Dept.
Maclean Hunter Cable T.V.
27 Fasken Drive
Rexdale, Ontario M9N 1K7

If you are planning a local T.V. interview this tape could serve as a model for your production. It could be requested by your local T.V. station directly from channel 10, address above.

CBC Telecast - "The Nature of Things" December 1977

"The People You Never See" explores the world of the cerebral palsied person! A portion of the programme is devoted to Kari Harrington and her family and her symbols.

Sixteen mm colour copies are available from National Film Board offices across Canada. There has been a waiting list for this film since it was shown in Canada and you are advised to reserve it well in advance. Copies are available in the U.S. from:

National Film Board of Canada
1251 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10020

B.C.I. PRODUCTS

The new Blissymbol stamps and template now offer all Blissymbol users and instructors the opportunity to examine and produce symbols following masters drawn by our draftsman, Jim Grice, and carefully checked by Jinny Storr and Paula Ashmead. The conscientious efforts of Jinny and Paula will only be fully appreciated in the years to come, as we become aware of the fine detail which has been required. We now have a standard form of drawing the symbols - from which we can all benefit.

New Stamps - New Blank Grids Available

Stamps

The new vocabulary now available includes approximately 1000 symbol stamps. The stamps are colour coded and black and white, and backed with permanent adhesive. They will be printed on 'mac-tac', which is water repellent. The surface will be non-glare.

For the 512 grid the stamps are 9/16" square - \$8.00 (1000 stamps approximately)

The new stamp vocabulary is accompanied by a pamphlet explaining the organization of the stamp sheets. This includes the derivation of new symbols not described in the Provisional Dictionary.

The 'little man' pictured below is one of many stamp innovations. He incorporates a number of body parts and can replace individual stamps. He comes in two sizes to fit the two new blank grids. He will occupy 2 squares across and 3 squares down.



Grids

I. 512 Vocabulary grid

Individual squares 9/16" in size (\$\$.50)

Overall board size approximately 20" x 10"

II 400 Vocabulary grid

Individual squares 7/8" (\$\$.50)

(this is the same size as the present 200 board)

Overall board size approximately 20" x 20"

The 400 grid has been designed to be cut into the following sizes:

- (a) to make up two 200 grids
- (b) to make up one 256 grid
- (c) to make up four 100 grids
- (d) to make up anything in between

The grids will be printed on medium weight bristol board similar to the present symbol displays.

Flash Cards

Flash cards will also be available, 2-5/8" square in size, colour coded, and designed to fit a 3 x 3 square matrix on the 400 grid. There will be a vocabulary of 250 symbols avail-

able on flash cards. The cards do not have an adhesive back. They can be used as flash cards for drills and games or as large symbols for an introductory display.

\$16.00 (set of 250 symbols)

New Templates Available Now

in the following sizes:

large imperial - \$10.00
(the large square on this template is 1" in size)

large metric (medium size)
- \$9.00
(large square is 21 mm in size - approximately 3/4")

small metric (small size)
- \$8.00
(large square is 11 mm in size - approximately 1/2")

set of 2 metric templates - \$15.00

Increased prices reflect increased costs of manufacturing.

The Handbook carries a chapter on "How to Draw" which includes drawing with a template.

The HANDBOOK

The Handbook of Blissymbolics for Instructors, Users, Parents and Administrators is available. The price is \$20.00 per copy with a 10% discount for Associate Members.

The publication consists of two major sections:

- (1) The Handbook containing 450 pages of assessment and programming information with many practical suggestions for teaching aids;

- (2) A summary of the results of the Ontario Ministry of Education Evaluation Study of Symbol Users, providing the data upon which the Handbook recommendations have been based - 200 pages

The entire volume is inserted into a three-ring binder to allow for updating as further information on the application of Blissymbols becomes available.

NATIONAL FILM BOARD SERIES - Available for Purchase

One set of the full 15 series (750 slides) will be available at the B.C.I. and at each Resource Centre, on a loan basis.

The 15 series are available in 3 groups: Elementary, Intermediate & Advanced.

The National Film Board of Canada will reproduce the 15 series for sale when a minimum of fifteen orders is received. B.C.I. is accepting orders now. The price is \$500.00.

Promotional Material Available

B.C.I. now has available, at no charge, two new pamphlets;

General Information - briefly discusses Blissymbolics and the B.C.I. An explanation of training programmes and services is provided as well as a mail-back form requesting further information in a specific area.

Associate Membership - explains Associate Membership in B.C.I. and the categories available. An application form is included. Also outlined are the ways of directly relating to B.C.I., its Resource Centres or Affiliates in a volunteer capacity.

These two pamphlets, along with the one on Workshops and Training Programmes, may be requested for purposes of display or distribution, or as a visitor handout to Blissymbol classrooms or centres.

NEW PRODUCTS

Pre-School Booklet

Ann Warrick's booklet, Blissymbols for Preschool Children, published by the Resource Centre at the Ottawa Crippled Children's Treatment Centre, is now available from the B.C.I. It contains information on assessment, initiating a programme appropriate vocabulary, symbols with arts and crafts, books and stories. It is a very helpful sharing of the experience of several disciplines in implementing Blissymbolics with young children.

Two New Products from Victoria, B.C. (address below)

Iron-On Symbol Transfer

Iron on transfers of the 100 symbol display for t-shirts, aprons and other fabrics. Transfer must be applied at a t-shirt printing facility. Price \$2.00 includes postage.

Plastic Cases for Portable Displays

Available in four designs in non-glare plastic.

1) - 12" x 18" - 2 pockets
\$2.50 plus \$1.50 postage & handling.

2) - 18" x 24" - 2 pockets

3) - 18" x 24" - 2 pockets

4) - 18" x 24" - 4 pockets

items 2,3,4 - \$3.50 plus \$1.50 postage and handling

order: Greater Victoria Blissymbolics Programme
596 Head Street
Victoria, B.C. V9A 2S7

Christmas

It's hard to think of sleigh bells and mistletoe this time of year - but we wanted to let you know well in advance, the B.C.I. will have a Christmas card available for distribution in the fall. A sub-licence is shortly to be granted to a service group who have designed a very attractive card in Bliss symbols for Christmas. We will announce cost (and design) in the next bulletin.

Are You Publishing or Filming Symbols?

Thank you to those of you who have submitted your materials for review of symbols.

In future, please send to Mrs. Jinny Storr, Symbol Officer, a draft of the text as well as the symbols you propose to use. In order to be certain the symbols chosen are appropriate illustrations of the text we used to see both. Allow six weeks for return of your submission.

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"Be a Symbol Sponsor"

This is a service available to companies and other interested parties, who would like to use a symbol message. Possible uses - on an annual report, letterheads, brochures.

There is a minimum charge of \$100.00

B.C.I. needs this kind of support to become more self supporting to maintain the standard of service necessary to give sustained help and support to our symbol users and instructors.

Help us help ourselves by promoting our "Be a Symbol Sponsor" idea in your community.

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BLISSYMBOLICS COMMUNICATION INSTITUTE
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